

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended for clarification purposes only, and does not present new matter or warrant a new search. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 17-22 are currently pending in the case. Further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application are respectfully requested.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 1 was objected to for an informality. The final Office Action states that in line 11 of claim 1, the phrase "an applied forced" should be "an applied force" (Final Office Action, page 2). The Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's thorough review of the claims, and hereby amends claim 1 to recite "an applied force." This amendment is believed to clarify the claim language in a manner that addresses the concerns expressed in the Final Office Action about claim 1. Accordingly, removal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowance of Claims

Applicant sincerely appreciates the Examiner's recognition of the patentable subject matter recited in claims 11, 12, 14, and 17-22 and awaits allowance of the remaining claims in the case. The final Office Action states some reasons for allowance of claims 11, 12, 14, and 17-22 in the section of the entitled "Response to Arguments." Applicant asserts that it is the combination of features in these claims that render the claims distinguishable over the cited art, not just the portions of the claims cited in the final Office Action.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,684,669 to Collins et al. (hereinafter "Collins") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2003/0079691 to Shang et al. (hereinafter "Shang") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,125,025 to Howald et al. (hereinafter "Howald").

In the previous Response to Office Action Mailed November 18, 2003, Applicant argued that there is no teaching or suggestion within Collins, Howald, or Shang, either separately or when combined, for measuring a current from (or within) a solenoid, where the measured current is proportional to an

applied lifting force provided by a lifting mechanism. The previous Response, which was mailed February 18, 2004, is hereby incorporated in its entirety.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner agrees that Collins, Howald, and Shang each fail, on their own merits and when combined, to teach or suggest the presently claimed step of measuring a current from (or within) a solenoid, where the measured current is proportional to an applied lifting force provided by a lifting mechanism. Though the Examiner admits to being persuaded by Applicant's arguments, as they apply to independent claim 11, the Examiner suggests that the "features upon which applicant relies (i.e., measuring a current from or in the solenoid to proportional to the applied lifting force) is not recited in the rejected claim 1." (Final Office Action, page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree, for at least the reasons set forth in more detail below.

Prior to the amendment herein, independent claim 1 recited limitations on a "chuck equipped with a lifting mechanism that comprises at least one extendable lifting pin driven by a solenoid ... wherein current from the solenoid is a measured current" and a "sensor adapted to measure a force ... in opposition to an applied force provided by the lifting mechanism ... wherein the sensor comprises a current monitor adapted for measuring a current proportional to the applied lifting force." Though Applicant's believe that claim 1, in its pre-amended state, teaches that the current measured by the current monitor is the "measured current" from the solenoid, Applicants recognize how the claim language could be falsely interpreted. Therefore, in order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the language recited therein. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include "a current monitor adapted for measuring the current from the solenoid, wherein the measured current is proportional to the applied lifting force." This amendment is believed to clarify the claim language in a manner that addresses the concerns expressed in the final Office Action about claim 1.

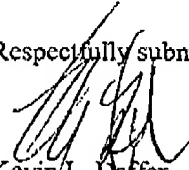
In light of the amendment made herein clarifying the language recited in claim 1, Applicants assert that the § 103 rejection of independent claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, has been obviated. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be removed.

CONCLUSION

This response constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the final Office Action mailed July 29, 2004. In view of the remarks traversing the rejections, Applicants assert that pending claims 1, 3, 5, 7-12, 14, and 17-22 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, comments, or suggestions, the undersigned attorney earnestly requests a telephone conference.

No fees are required for filing this amendment; however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to LSI Logic Corporation Deposit Account No. 12-2252/01-207.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin L. Daffer
Reg. No. 34,146
Attorney for Applicant(s)

Conley Rose P.C.
P.O. Box 684908
Austin, TX 78768-4908
Ph: (512) 476-1400
Date: September 21, 2004
JMF